



PRESS RELEASE

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Boys combat fire in gear donated by Mifflin Township

Members of City of Logan Fire Explorer Post 2232 in Hocking County are now completely outfitted in real-life turnout gear because of a donation of six sets of retired gear from the Mifflin Township Division of Fire. Turnouts have a 10-year lifespan for being serviceable and in compliance with structural firefighting regulations. Once gear is deemed no longer serviceable, fire departments generally dispose of it. A Mifflin Township lieutenant had a better idea.

"Instead of throwing our once-expensive gear into a dumpster, it was given to youth who want to be firefighters to get use from it," said Lt. Steve Engler of the Mifflin Township Division of Fire. "New turnout gear including pants and coats costs \$1,500 a set so the donation would be valued at \$9,000 if it were new."

Engler's 15-year-old son is one of the 13 high-school-age boys in Post 2232 and aspires to pursue the same vocation as his dad when he grows up.

Engler's son Philip said, "I have wanted to be a firefighter for several years now and plan on attending a fire academy after high school. This gear allows me and the others to experience doing the work using actual gear. There is no comparison to acting like you have gear on and actually having it on. We would like to thank Mifflin Township for this donation."

Former Explorer Richard Coakley, a volunteer firefighter and lead adviser of the Post 2232 group, said, "The donated gear has helped us out immensely. We only had a handful of gear, and now we have enough for the entire post. We now are able to use the entire post in realistic training scenarios and real-world calls. The donation has really had an impact on the entire group."

Pictures with the donated gear at a training fire are at <https://www.facebook.com/ExplorerPost2232>.

Fire Explorers is a specialty division of the Boy Scouts that offers firsthand what it is like to be a firefighter through training and hands-on experience. Post 2232 members are all from Hocking County.

[Mifflin Township Division of Fire](#) provides fire and emergency medical services to residents in the city of Gahanna and unincorporated township area. The division has four fire stations, and employs more than 100 firefighter/paramedics, fire prevention officers and dispatchers. Responding to more than 8,000 calls for assistance each year with a response time of less than four minutes, the Mifflin Township Division of Fire is one of the busiest fire departments in Franklin County.

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